

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 13 through 17 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1 through 12 and 18 through 20 to read, as follows.

1. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus comprising:  
  
a rotatable latent image bearing member for bearing a latent image;  
  
charging means contacting with said latent image bearing member and being provided with ~~is given~~ a voltage applied thereto for charging said latent image bearing member;  
  
cleaning means contacting with said latent image bearing member and being ~~[[is]]~~ adapted to clean said latent image bearing member; and  
  
AC current detecting means capable, when a first AC voltage capable of having plural different peak-to-peak voltages is applied to said charging means, of detecting an AC current flowing between said charging means and said latent image bearing member, ~~member~~;  
  
wherein a peak-to-peak voltage of a charging AC voltage applied to said ~~[[the]]~~ charging means for charging an area constituting an image forming area on said latent image bearing member is selected based on an AC current detected by said AC current detecting means, ~~means~~; and  
  
wherein said charging means is provided with, ~~given~~, after an application of the ~~[[said]]~~ first AC voltage and before an application of the ~~[[said]]~~ charging AC voltage, a

second AC voltage having a peak-to-peak voltage larger than the peak-to-peak voltage of the [[said]] first AC voltage.

2. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the [[said]] charging peak-to-peak voltage is selected when the [[said]] AC current reaches a predetermined AC current.

3. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein, after a ~~of said~~ charging peak-to-peak voltage is selected, a next charging peak-to-peak voltage is selected before the [[said]] AC current reaches the [[said]] predetermined AC current.

4. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the [[said]] first AC voltage is provided with an AC voltage having a peak-to-peak voltage which is lower by a step than the [[said]] charging peak-to-peak voltage applied previously.

5. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the [[said]] second AC voltage is applied when said charging means is brought into contact with an area constituting a non-image forming area of said latent image bearing member.

6. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a peak-to-peak voltage of the ~~the~~ second AC voltage is a maximum peak-to-peak voltage among the peak-to-peak voltages of the AC voltages applied ~~applicable~~ to said charging means.

7. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

transfer means which applies a transfer voltage for transferring, to a transfer medium, a developer image developed with a developer in the ~~the~~ image forming area,  
area;

wherein a DC voltage of a polarity opposite to a normal charging polarity of said latent image bearing member is applied to said transfer means, when an area of said latent image bearing member, charged by the application of the ~~the~~ second AC voltage to said charging means, is present in a portion in contact with said transfer means.

8. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the ~~the~~ transfer voltage is determined based on a current flowing between said latent image bearing member and said transfer means when the ~~the~~ DC voltage is applied to said transfer means.

9. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the ~~the~~ second AC voltage is applied to said charging means, a discharged AC charge amount  $\delta a$  per unit area satisfies the ~~the~~ following condition:

$$\delta a \geq 2600 [\text{mA} \times \text{sec}/\text{m}^2]$$

and [[said]]  $\delta a$  is defined by:

$$\delta a [\text{mA} \times \text{sec}/\text{m}^2] = ((I_{ac} - \alpha \times V_{pp})/L)/V_{ps}$$

in which:

$V_{ps}$  [m/sec] is a moving speed of said latent image bearing member;

$V_{pp}$  [V] is a peak-to-peak voltage of the [[said]] second AC voltage;

$I_{ac}$  [mA] is the [[said]] AC current flowing between said charging means and said latent image bearing member;

$L$  [m] is a longitudinal charging width of said charging means;

$\alpha$  represents AC voltage-current characteristics when said latent image bearing member and said charging means are in mutual contact and is a ratio  $I_{ac}/V_{pp}$  of an [[said]] AC current  $I_{ac}$  to a [[the]] peak-to-peak voltage  $V_{pp}$  in a region not exceeding twice [[of]] a charging starting voltage  $V_{th}$ .

10. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein, when the [[said]] charging AC voltage is applied, a discharged AC charge amount  $\delta b$  per unit area between said charging means and said latent image bearing means satisfies the [[a]] following condition:

$$\delta b \geq 1200 [\mu\text{A} \times \text{sec}/\text{m}^2] \text{ and}$$

$$\delta a > \delta b,$$

and [[said]]  $\delta b$  is defined by:

$$\delta b [\mu\text{A} \times \text{sec}/\text{m}^2] = ((I_{ac}' - \alpha \times V_{pp}')/L')/V_{ps}'$$

in which:

$V_{ps}'$  [m/sec] is a moving speed of said latent image bearing member;

$V_{pp}'$  [V] is a peak-to-peak voltage of the [[said]] charging AC voltage;

$I_{ac}'$  [ $\mu$ A] is the [[said]] AC current flowing between said charging means and said latent image bearing member;

$L'$  [m] is a longitudinal charging width of said charging means;

$\alpha$  represents AC voltage-current characteristics when said latent image bearing member and said charging means are in mutual contact and is a ratio  $I_{ac}/V_{pp}$  of an [[said]] AC current  $I_{ac}$  to a [[the]] peak-to-peak voltage  $V_{pp}$  in a region not exceeding twice [[of]] a charging starting voltage  $V_{th}$ .

11. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the [[said]] first AC voltage is applied to said charging means during a time equal to or longer than a time of one rotation ~~a turn~~ of said latent image bearing member.

12. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the [[said]] second AC voltage is applied to said charging means during a time equal to or longer than a time of one rotation ~~a turn~~ of said latent image bearing member.

Claims 13 through 17. **(Canceled)**

18. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the ~~[[an]]~~ area constituting the ~~[[said]]~~ non-image forming area is an area of said latent image bearing member in an initial rotation step prior to an image formation.

19. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 18, wherein, when a time of said initial rotation step varies, the time of application of the ~~[[said]]~~ second AC voltage to said charging means varies but the time of application of the ~~[[said]]~~ first AC voltage to said charging means does not vary.

20. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, ~~1 or 13~~, further comprising a power supply circuit, wherein said power supply circuit outputs an AC and DC superposed voltage provided to said charging means by single voltage-elevating means.